



**CONGRESSMAN CURT WELDON**

***7th District Pennsylvania***



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**STATEMENT OF HONORABLE CURT WELDON**

**CHAIRMAN, RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**

**JOINT SESSION OF THE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT AND PROCUREMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEES**

**BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE HEARING**

*March 19, 1997*

This afternoon we will hold a joint hearing of the R&D and Procurement Subcommittees to examine two subjects. Our first panel of witnesses will present the findings of a U.S.-Russian study which examined the potential for U.S.-Russian mutual accommodation on National Missile Defense (NMD) and the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty.

Dr. Keith Payne, President of the National Institute for Public Policy

Dr. Andrei Shoumikhin, Moscow Public Foundation

Dr. Keith Payne and Dr. Andrei Shoumikhin are with us today to discuss the two-year study they conducted and co-authored along with Dr. Andrei Kortunov, (who had to return to Russia last week and couldn't be with us today).

Their findings indicate that there is no inconsistency between limited NMD capability and the preservation of mutual nuclear deterrence, and they outline an approach which strikes a balance between safeguarding Russian strategic nuclear deterrent capability, while enabling the U.S. to pursue initiatives for limited NMD.

The results of this study have recently been endorsed by Ambassador Vladimir Lukin, the chairman of the International Relations Committee of the Russian State Duma.

Dr. Payne and Dr. Shoumikhin emphasize the keys to mutual U.S. - Russian accommodation as being the willingness of the U.S. to commit to limiting its NMD capabilities, the Russian acceptance of limited U.S. NMD requirements, and the potential need to modify or replace the ABM Treaty.

The second focus of today's hearing will be to review the current status of Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) international cooperative programs and their contribution to U.S. efforts to work together with other countries on BMD initiatives. Our second panel of witnesses will be representatives from the BMD organization and from some of the foreign countries participating in cooperative BMD efforts with the U.S.

In fact, one of the international cooperative programs we will discuss today is the joint U.S.-Russian RAMOS project which will further reinforce points from our first panel discussions.

Brigadier General Curtis H. Emery, Director for Theater Air and Missile Defenses

Dr. J. David Martin, Deputy for Strategic Relations.

Before turning the floor over to our witnesses, I would like to recognize my good friend and joint session Chairman, Duncan Hunter, for any remarks he would like to make.

I would also like to recognize Mr. Owen Pickett, ranking member of the R&D Subcommittee, and Mr. Ike Skelton, ranking member of the Procurement Subcommittee, for any comments they would like to make.